

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following paragraph at the beginning of the specification.

This application is a 371 of international application PCT/JP2003/011403, which claims priority based on Japanese patent application Nos. 2002-267593, 2002-305559 and 2003-75368, filed September 13, 2002, October 21, 2002, and March 19, 2003, respectively, which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In particular, the present invention provides the following heat-sensitive recording materials:

Item 1. A heat-sensitive recording material comprising:

(a) a transparent film;

(b) a heat-sensitive recording layer formed on one side of the transparent film, and containing an electron-donating compound, an electron-accepting compound, and a binder;

(c) a protective layer formed on the heat-sensitive recording layer, and containing an aqueous resin as a main ingredient; and

(d) a backside layer formed on the other side of the transparent film, and containing a pigment and a binder,

the heat-sensitive recording material containing, as the pigment, in the backside layer spherical resin particles having a mean volume particle diameter of 2 to 15 μm in an amount of 0.2 to 5.0 mass % of the backside layer.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Examples of polyol compounds are ethylene glycol, 1,3-propanediol, 1,4-butanediol, 1,7-heptanediol, 1,8-octanediol, propylene glycol, 1,3-dihydroxybutane, 2,2-dimethyl-1,3-propanediol, 2,5-hexanediol, 3-methyl-1,5-pentanediol, 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol, dihydroxycyclohexane, diethylene glycol, phenylethylene glycol, pentaerythritol, 1,4-di(2-hydroxyethoxy)benzene, 1,3-di(2-hydroxyethoxy)benzene, p-xylylene glycol, m-xylylene glycol, 4,4'-isopropylidenediphenol, 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenylsulfone, ~~2-hydroxy acrylate~~, etc.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 32, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The protective layer may further contain, for example, pigments such as calcium carbonate, zinc oxide, aluminum oxide, titanium dioxide, amorphous silica, aluminum hydroxide, barium sulfate, talc, kaolin, styrene resin fillers, nylon resin fillers, urea-formaldehyde resin fillers and the like; lubricants such as zinc stearate, calcium stearate and the like; waxes such as paraffin, polyethylene wax, polypropylene wax, carnauba wax and the like; surfactants such as perfluoroalkyl carboxylic acid salts, perfluoroalkyl phosphate salts, perfluoroalkyl sulfonate salts, ethylene oxide adducts of perfluoroalkyl amide, dialkyl sulfosuccinate salts, alkylsulfonic acid salts, alkyl carboxylic acid salts, alkyl phosphate salts, alkyl ethylene oxides, and the like; and auxiliaries such as higher fatty acid amide including stearamide, methylenebisstearamide, ethylenebisstearamide and the like.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Preferable fluorine-containing surfactants are anionic or nonionic ones, and include, for example, perfluoroalkyl carboxylic acid salts, perfluoroalkyl phosphate salts, perfluoroalkylsulfonic

acid salts, ethylene oxide adducts of perfluoroalkyl amide, etc. Alkyl groups in such compounds preferably have about 6 to about 30 carbon atoms. Lithium, potassium and ammonium salts are preferable among such salts. Nonionic ethylene oxide adducts of perfluoroalkyl amide (especially, those in which the number of moles of ethylene oxide added is about 5 to about 20) are particularly preferable.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A composition containing 100 parts of an ionomeric urethane-based resin latex (manufactured by Dainippon Ink & Chemicals Inc., Hydran (registered trademark) AP-30F, solids content: 20%), 500 parts of an 8% aqueous solution of an acetoacetyl-modified polyvinyl alcohol (manufactured by Nippon Synthetic Chemical Industry Co., Ltd., Gohsefimer (registered trademark) OKS-3431, degree of polymerization: about 2300, degree of saponification: about 98 mol%, degree of acetoacetyl modification: 4 mol%), 5 parts of a 25% aqueous solution of a polyamidoamine-epichlorohydrin, 50 parts of a 60% slurry of kaolin having a mean volume particle diameter of 0.8 μ m (manufactured by Engelhard Corporation, UW-90),

26 parts of stearamide (manufactured by Chukyo Yushi Co., Ltd., Hymicron L271, solids content: 25%, mean volume particle diameter: 0.4 μ m), 4 parts of potassium stearyl phosphate (manufactured by Matsumoto Yushi Seiyaku, Woopol (registered trademark) 1800, solids content: 35%), 15 parts of a 10% aqueous solution of an ethylene oxide adduct of perfluoroalkyl amide (manufactured by Seimi Chemical Co., Ltd., Surflon (registered trademark) S-145), and 300 parts of water was stirred to give a protective layer coating composition.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 31, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Example 17

A heat-sensitive recording material was produced in the same manner as in Example 1 except that, in the preparation of the protective layer coating composition, 79 parts of a 10% aqueous solution of an ethyleneoxide adduct of perfluoroalkyl amide (manufactured by Seimi Chemical Co., Ltd., Surflon (registered trademark) S-145) was used in place of 26 parts of stearamide (manufactured by Chukyo Yushi Co., Ltd., Hymicron L271, solids content: 25%) and 4 parts of potassium stearyl phosphate

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(manufactured by Matsumoto Yushi Seiyaku, Woopol (registered
trademark) 1800, solids content: 35%).